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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,038	02/07/2002	Aaron J. Shuman	13503US01	1888

7590

08/14/2003

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/072,038

Applicant(s)

SHUMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6, 7. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, Claims 1-9 in Paper No. 9 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,179,643). With regard to Claim 1, Fukuda discloses an electrical connector assembly comprising: a plug (10) having front (where 15A is located) and rear (where 12 is located) ends, the front (where 15A is located) end including a mating interface (where 15A is located); a receptacle (20) having an opening (24) configured to receive the mating interface (where 15A is located) of the plug (10); a deflectable latch (15) including a beam (18) having a front end (15A) secured with the front (where 15A is located) end of the plug housing (11) and a rear, free-standing end (15B) which is biasable towards the plug (10) to permit the plug (10) and receptacle (20) to be mated

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with one another, the latch (15) further including first and second latching projections (19) extending from opposite sides of the beam (18); and first and second latch mating elements (26) formed within the receptacle opening (24), the first and second latch mating elements (26) being positioned to securely engage the first and second latching projections (19) when the plug and receptacle housings (11, 21) are fully mated with one another. See Figs. 1-7B.

With regard to Claim 2, Fukuda discloses the plug (10) including a cut out portion (Fig. 5B) underlying the rear end (15B) of the latch beam (18) for permitting increased inward deflection of the latch beam (18) relative to the plug (10). See Figs. 1-7B.

With regard to Claim 3, Fukuda discloses the rear end (15B) of the latch beam (18) including a beveled inner face (lower surface of 15B) for permitting increased inward deflection of the latch beam (18) relative to the plug (10). See Figs. 1-7B.

With regard to Claim 4, Fukuda discloses the first and second latching projections (19) being longitudinally aligned with one another along the length of the latch beam (18). See Figs. 1-7B.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 5-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the housing having a top wall, a bottom wall and first and second side walls, at least a portion of the top, bottom and side walls defining the mating interface, the latch being disposed along one of the first and second side walls, and wherein the overall height of the latch, as measured between the outer edges of the first and second latching projections, is substantially the same as the height of the mating interface side walls and in combination with the rest of the limitations in the base claim.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Takenouchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,946,404), Sholz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,344,335), Kodama (U.S. Patent No. 6,332,800), Reider et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,685,729), and Vandame (U.S. Patent No. 4,655,527) disclose connector assemblies having latching mechanism, plugs and receptacles.

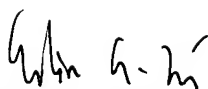
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

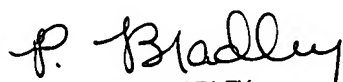
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308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833

EAL
August 1, 2003


P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800